(More Figures in the Street)

Various texts preserved in the Archives of Ontario indicate the close relationship the Reception Hospital was to have had with the Toronto Asylum, and the conditions that contributed to its early closure. It is evident from these that, while Clarke and others exploited the Reception Hospital as he had the Asylum earlier, its purpose -- unclear and contradictory as it was -- was still different from the clinic's he had in mind. At least a part of the problem seems to have been accommodating low and middle-class patients under the same roof, or indeed, in the same room. While accommodating together the different disorders that afflicted the patients must have been hard enough, accommodating different classes seems to have upset the officials even more:

> About one half the patients coming into this Hospital are women and men from good families, who have been accustomed to lives of refinement. In the Reception Hospital we have treated many women from the best homes in Toronto, and the purpose of my letter is to draw your attention to the almost impossible situation where we are compelled to recommend the Hospital to good, clean living, decent people, when we are admitting to the same room patients who will use the same bathroom and the same closet, and who are suffering from contagious diseases, such as, Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, Tuberculosis, Scabies, and all other forms of skin diseases.[cxi]

A "Memorandum for the Honourable W.D. McPherson, Provincial Secretary," prepared by Dr. Clare in December, 1918, explains that part of the role of the Reception Hospital was to keep the large population of "defectives and insane" that "drift in" to the capitol from ending up in gaol.[cxii] The idea of a migration of the insane to the city, so reminiscent of Clarke's earlier scarifying, probably has less to do with reality than with Dr. Clare's desire to make caring for them a provincial as well as a municipal responsibility.

After the province ordered the Reception Hospital to close because of the appalling inadequacy of its premises, city and provincial officials, including C.K. Clarke (for the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene) met on May 27, 1919, to discuss alternatives. In the minutes Controller Cameron explains that the Reception Hospital had been intended to treat the mentally ill "before they have the stigma of being placed in an asylum" (2-3).[cxiii] When